

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 and 5-15 are pending and rejected in this application.

Responsive to the rejection of claims 1-3, 5, 9-12, 14 and 15 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 4,536,612 (Domigan) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,565,416 (Rudy et al.), Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and submits that claims 1-3, 5, 9-12, 14 and 15 are in condition for allowance.

Domigan discloses a box for raised floors (Figs. 1 and 2) including a main housing 2 having sidewalls 4 and 5 and sidewalls 6 and 7 extending upwardly from the bottom (column 1, lines 31-34). A receptacle bracket 15 is connected to the first power section top 14 at opening 13 and abuts the third and fourth sidewalls and extends downwardly therefrom (column 1, lines 46-49). Brackets 15 and 17 each have mounting holes and attaching screws to support receptacles 21 and 22 (column 1, lines 62-64). Sidewalls 4 and 5 of the power sections each are provided with apertures to mount wire connectors 27 and 28. Conductors 30 and 31 connect respective wire connectors 27 and 28 and receptacles 21 and 22 (column 2, lines 12-16). A floor panel 42 is made of wood or other composition and box 1 is secured to panel 42 by screws 43 extending through clearance holes 44 in flanges 45 of tops 14 and 16, or by screws extending through clearance holes 46 in flanges 47. Floor panel 42 has an access hole 50 aligned with opening 13 (column 2, lines 36-42). The power through feature of power in by way of wire connector 27 and power out by way of wire connector 28 is provided by the clearance in power sections 10 and 11. With respect to receptacles 21 and 22, the portion where the conductors are connected is within the confines of the power section while the plug-in portion or plug-in head is in the communication section (column 3, line 6-15). Figs. 1 and 2 illustrate connectors 27 and 28 as being of a type that is inserted through an exterior side of walls 4 and 5 having an outer flange that prevents connectors 27 and 28 from being pulled into or through the openings of walls 4 and

5. Further, there are latching arms that prevent connectors 27 and 28 from being removed without the depressing of the connector arms. It is also noted in Fig. 2 that opening 50 is likely too small to accommodate the removal of brackets 15 or 17 particularly with receptacles 21 and 22 attached thereto.

Rudy et al. disclose a latching means and locking means for retaining terminals in a connector (Figs. 1-6) including a housing 30 of a resilient dielectric material. Housing 30 has cylindrical terminal receiving cavities 32 into which cylindrical terminals 10 are securably inserted. Housing 30 has a rear portion 26 and a forward portion 28. Forward cavity section 36 contains terminal engaging latching devices and terminal 10 has cooperating latching devices. Conductor securing portion 14 of terminal 10 is fully inserted into terminal receiving cavity 32. Optionally, potting compound may be placed in rear section 44 to secure conductor securing portion 14 of the terminals therein (column 2, line 38 through column 3, line 2). When latching ledges 46 and 48 are latched in seat 22 of terminal 10, all of the terminals are latched thereby. Locking insert 60 can then be inserted into inter-cavity opening 50, preferably entering from front surface 52 of housing 30. Insert 60 includes a body section 62, with locking channels 64 in body section 62 which, upon insertion of locking insert 60 into inter-cavity opening 50 of housing 30, will engage outer surfaces 54 of terminal-receiving cavities 32 and prevent arm-like wall sections 42 from being expanded outward to unlatch from terminal 10 (column 3, line 55 through column 4, line 2).

In contrast, claim 1, recites in part:

at least one pass-through connector releasably directly connected to said electrical cable connector on the inside of said housing.

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Domigan, Rudy et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Domigan discloses a box for raised floors including connectors 27 and 28 connected by wires to receptacles 21 and 22 respectively. Domigan teaches the electrical wiring of a connector in a housing to a receptacle that is then accessible from the interior of an underfloor box. Domigan does not show a connector that is directly connected to either connector 27 or 28 on the inside of the box, to thereby allow the interior of the underfloor box to be easily removed and reconfigured. Further, Domigan does not illustrate or disclose a connector directly connected to connector 27, which the Examiner has indicated to be a pass-through connector. Rudy et al. discloses a latching means and locking means for retaining terminals in a connector including a housing of a resilient dielectric material. Even when Rudy et al. is combined with Domigan it does not teach or suggest a pass-through connector that is releasably directly connected to the electrical cable connector. Even if the connector of Rudy et al. was substituted for connector 27 or 28 of Domigan, the connector would still be retained in walls 4 and 5 and locking section 60 of the connector or Rudy et al. would have to be removed from outside of the floor box before the wires connected to terminals 10 could be removed from a back portion of the connector. This would require access to one side of connector 27 while someone would pull the wire from the other side of connector 27. This operation is not practical and even if possible would be contrary to the common understanding of the definition of a connector. A connector is defined as, “a fixture (either male or female) attached to a cable or chassis for quickly mating and breaking one or more circuits.” (*The Illustrated Dictionary of Electronics*, 6th Edition, Copyrighted 1994 by TAD Books, McGraw Hill, Inc.). The operation inferred by combining the references is contrary to this definition in that even if the operation could be carried out, it could not be quickly carried out for the making or breaking of one or more electrical circuits. In contrast to the references cited by the Examiner, Applicant’s invention does not require rewiring of the internal portion of a floor box to accomplish the separation of wires, rather Applicant’s invention includes a separation

of connectors. For example, a box of Domigan using the connector of Rudy et al. would require access through opening 50 of Domigan to remove screws holding receptacles 21 and 22 in position. However, wires 30 and 31 which connect, respectively, with connectors 27 and 28 remain connected in connectors 27 and 28 and are not disconnectable from connectors 27 and 28 apart from access to the other side of connectors 27 and 28. In contrast, Applicant's invention complies with the common understanding of the word 'connector' and the electrical cable connector is releasably directly connected to the pass-through connector on the inside of a housing.

Even if the wires of Rudy et al. are considered an electrical cable it is not a connector that is releasably directly connected to the electrical cable connector on the inside of the housing as recited in claim 1 of Applicant's invention. Further, a serious safety issue would arise if the connector of Rudy et al. were disassembled exposing conductive crimped wire connections to be exposed to the operator, since the daisy-chaining feature of Domigan would allow power to be feed by way of the connector on the opposite side of the underfloor box. This makes the combination of Domigan and Rudy et al. a construct to be avoided. Therefore, Domigan, Rudy et al. and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest at least one pass-through connector releasably directly connected to an electrical cable connector on the inside of the housing, as recited in claim 1.

Applicant's invention has an advantage over the cited references, in that the pass-through connector allows for the quick disconnecting of an interior wiring configuration by simply disengaging the connector that is connected to the pass-through connector. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 and claims 2, 3, 5, 9 and 15 depending therefrom are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

In further contrast, claim 10, recites in part:

a pass-through connector ... releasably directly connected to said electrical cable connector on the inside of the underfloor receptacle box.

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Domigan, Rudy et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

Domigan discloses a box for raised floors including connectors 27 and 28 connected by wires to receptacles 21 and 22 respectively. Domigan teaches the electrical wiring of a connector in a housing to a receptacle that is then accessible from the interior of an underfloor box.

Domigan does not show a connector that is directly connected to either connector 27 or 28 on the inside of the box, to thereby allow the interior of the underfloor box to be easily removed and reconfigured. Further, Domigan does not illustrate or disclose a connector directly connected to connector 27, which the Examiner has indicated to be a pass-through connector. Rudy et al. discloses a latching means and locking means for retaining terminals in a connector including a housing of a resilient dielectric material. Even when Rudy et al. is combined with Domigan it does not teach or suggest a pass-through connector that is releasably directly connected to the electrical cable connector. Even if the connector of Rudy et al. was substituted for connector 27 or 28 of Domigan, the connector would still be retained in walls 4 and 5 and locking section 60 of the connector or Rudy et al. would have to be removed from outside of the floor box before the wires connected to terminals 10 could be removed from a back portion of the connector. This would require access to one side of connector 27 while someone would pull the wire from the other side of connector 27. This operation is not practical and even if possible would be contrary to the common understanding of the definition of a connector. A connector is defined as, “a fixture (either male or female) attached to a cable or chassis for quickly mating and breaking one or more circuits.” (*The Illustrated Dictionary of Electronics*, 6th Edition, Copyrighted 1994 by TAD Books, McGraw Hill, Inc.). The operation inferred by combining the references is contrary

to this definition in that even if the operation could be carried out, it could not be quickly carried out for the making or breaking of one or more electrical circuits. In contrast to the references cited by the Examiner, Applicant's invention does not require rewiring of the internal portion of a floor box to accomplish the separation of wires, rather Applicant's invention includes a separation of connectors. For example, a box of Domigan using the connector of Rudy et al. would require access through opening 50 of Domigan to remove screws holding receptacles 21 and 22 in position. However, wires 30 and 31 which connect, respectively, with connectors 27 and 28 remain connected in connectors 27 and 28 and are not disconnectable from connectors 27 and 28 apart from access to the other side of connectors 27 and 28. In contrast, Applicant's invention complies with the common understanding of the word 'connector' and the electrical cable connector is releasably directly connected to the pass-through connector on the inside of a housing.

Even if the wires of Rudy et al. are considered an electrical cable it is not a connector that is releasably directly connected to the electrical cable connector on the inside of the housing as recited in claim 1 of Applicant's invention. Further, a serious safety issue would arise if the connector of Rudy et al. were disassembled exposing conductive crimped wire connections to be exposed to the operator, since the daisy-chaining feature of Domigan would allow power to be feed by way of the connector on the opposite side of the underfloor box. This makes the combination of Domigan and Rudy et al. a construct to be avoided. Therefore, Domigan, Rudy et al. and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest at least one pass-through connector releasably directly connected to an electrical cable connector on the inside of the housing, as recited in claim 10.

Applicant's invention has an advantage over the cited references, in that the pass-through connector allows for the quick disconnecting of an interior wiring configuration by simply

disengaging a connector that is connected to the pass-through connector. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 10 and claims 11, 12 and 14 depending therefrom are now in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

Responsive to the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Domigan in view of Rudy et al., Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection and submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance.

In contrast, claim 1, recites in part:

at least one pass-through connector releasably directly connected to said electrical cable connector on the inside of said housing.

(Emphasis added). Applicant submits that such an invention is neither taught, disclosed nor suggested by Domigan, Rudy et al. or any of the other cited references, alone or in combination and includes distinct advantages thereover.

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the connector or Rudy et al. would have to be removed from outside of the floor box before the wires connected to terminals 10 could be removed from a back portion of the connector. This would require access to one side of connector 27 while someone would pull the wire from the other side of connector 27. This operation is not practical and even if possible would be contrary to the common understanding of the definition of a connector. A connector is defined as, “a fixture (either male or female) attached to a cable or chassis for quickly mating and breaking one or more circuits.” (*The Illustrated Dictionary of Electronics*, 6th Edition, Copyrighted 1994 by TAD Books, McGraw Hill, Inc.). The operation inferred by combining the references is contrary to this definition in that even if the operation could be carried out, it could not be quickly carried out for the making or breaking of one or more electrical circuits. In contrast to the references cited by the Examiner, Applicant’s invention does not require rewiring of the internal portion of a floor box to accomplish the separation of wires, rather Applicant’s invention includes a separation of connectors. For example, a box of Domigan using the connector of Rudy et al. would require access through opening 50 of Domigan to remove screws holding receptacles 21 and 22 in position. However, wires 30 and 31 which connect, respectively, with connectors 27 and 28 remain connected in connectors 27 and 28 and are not disconnectable from connectors 27 and 28 apart from access to the other side of connectors 27 and 28. In contrast, Applicant’s invention complies with the common understanding of the word ‘connector’ and the electrical cable connector is releasably directly connected to the pass-through connector on the inside of a housing.

Even if the wires of Rudy et al. are considered an electrical cable it is not a connector that is releasably directly connected to the electrical cable connector on the inside of the housing as recited in claim 1 of Applicant’s invention. Further, a serious safety issue would arise if the connector of Rudy et al. were disassembled exposing conductive crimped wire connections to be

exposed to the operator, since the daisy-chaining feature of Domigan would allow power to be feed by way of the connector on the opposite side of the underfloor box. This makes the combination of Domigan and Rudy et al. a construct to be avoided. Therefore, Domigan, Rudy et al. and any of the other cited references, alone or in combination, fail to disclose, teach or suggest at least one pass-through connector releasably directly connected to an electrical cable connector on the inside of the housing, as recited in claim 1.

Applicant's invention has an advantage over the cited references, in that the pass-through connector allows for the quick disconnecting of an interior wiring configuration by simply disengaging the connector that is connected to the pass-through connector. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claim 1 is in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

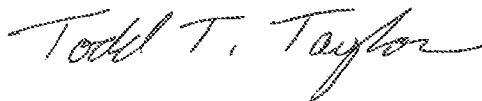
Claims 6-8 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Domigan in view of Rudy et al. and in further view of U.S. Patent No. 4,967,041 (Bowman). However, claims 6-8 depend from claim 1, claim 13 depends from claim 10, and claims 1 and 10 are in condition for allowance for the reasons given above. Accordingly, Applicant submits that claims 6-8 and 13 are in condition for allowance, which is hereby respectfully requested.

For the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that no combination of the cited references teaches, discloses or suggests the subject matter of the amended claims. The pending claims are therefore in condition for allowance, and Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of all rejections and allowance of the claims.

In the event Applicant has overlooked the need for an extension of time, an additional extension of time, payment of fee, or additional payment of fee, Applicant hereby conditionally petitions therefor and authorizes that any charges be made to Deposit Account No. 20-0095, TAYLOR & AUST, P.C.

Should any question concerning any of the foregoing arise, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at (260) 897-3400.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Todd T. Taylor".

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Electronically Filed October 13, 2006

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